

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WE THE PEOPLE, THE CITIZENS,
AND THE CONSTITUTION

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I would like to honor a group of high school students who have embarked on a project that not only enhances their educations but fosters their sense of civic responsibility. Between April 27 and April 29, more than 1,300 students from all over the country were in Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of competition sponsored by a program called We the People, The Citizens, and the Constitution. I'm proud to announce that the class from Hutchinson High School in Hutchinson represented Minnesota in the competition. These young people have undergone a rigorous course of study and worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The accomplished young people representing Minnesota are the following: Adam Brodd, Megan Carls, Eddy Cox, Chris Dahlman, Aaron Douglas, Ben Froemming, Aaron Hall, Eric Holtz, Rana Kasich, Kristen Mann, Aaron May, Mike Peek, Patrick Perrine, Terri Rennick, Chelle Robinson, John Sandberg, Dave Schaefer, Sara Sharstrom, Jill Shun, Kelly Watson, and Michelle Wulkan.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Mike Carls, who deserves some of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Jerry Benson, and the State coordinator, Robert Wangen, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People program is specifically designed to educate young people about the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. An evaluation of this program has shown that students in the program display more political tolerance and feel more politically effective than most adults in America. Students become more interested in politics and they learn how to get politically involved.

The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which the students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues. In short, these students are debating some of the very issues we've been debating on the Senate floor in recent months: the division of power between State and Federal Government, the balance of power among the branches of government, the right to privacy, the role of religion in public life.

Through the We the People program, students learn the constitutional values of freedom, equality and justice, the principles that bind our Nation together. These students have taken something that is an historical document and made it a part of their lives. In an era when so much of our public discourse is polarized, when there is so

much discussion of "us" and "them," these young people learn to value the "we" of "we the people." I wish these students the best of luck in the future and look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.●

JEFFERSON COUNTY MEDICAL
SOCIETY

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, twice a year, the Jefferson County Medical Society conducts a mini-internship program to inform and educate those outside the medical profession about the practice of medicine. For 2 days, about 12 to 18 business professionals and government officials are matched up with several Louisville physicians to watch them perform their jobs. Recently, Melissa Patack, a member of my staff, had this unique and worthwhile opportunity. I ask that a summary of her experience be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

JEFFERSON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MINI-
INTERNSHIP—APRIL 16-17, 1996

On April 16 and 17, 1996, I participated in the Jefferson County Medical Society's Mini-internship program. During the course of the two days, participants accompanied physicians in their usual activities and had the opportunity to observe first-hand the practice of medicine.

On Tuesday morning, I met Dr. Kathryn Cashner, an ob-gyn with a specialty in high risk pregnancies, at her office to watch her morning appointments with more than a dozen women. Dr. Cashner is a sole practitioner, with patients from all socio-economic backgrounds. About one-quarter to one-third of her patients receive Medicare benefits. This was a morning of unusual normalcy, Dr. Cashner remarked. Virtually all of the women were experiencing normal pregnancies, although several of the patients were 4 to 6 months into their pregnancies and seeing Dr. Cashner for the first prenatal visit. Dr. Cashner counseled one woman who had a negative test result, but who was immediately sent for a follow-up sonogram which turned out to be normal. When I left Dr. Cashner at Audubon Hospital, she was about to perform surgery on one of her high-risk patients which would enable the patient to carry her baby to full term. Dr. Cashner's practice brings her into close contact with the lives of her patients; on one wall of her office she displays pictures of all the babies she has brought into the world.

The afternoon brought me to Jewish Hospital to observe Dr. Thomas O'Daniel, a plastic surgeon, performing a face lift. Watching directly over his shoulder, I saw Dr. O'Daniel perform the delicate task of reconstructing a 57 year-old woman's face. The operation was a grueling, pain-staking procedure of more than 6 hours. Dr. O'Daniel concentrates on facial injuries and gets a great deal of satisfaction from the work he does on children. The next morning, he was operating to correct a child's cleft palate. Last fall, he traveled to Guatemala, where he and his staff operated on 75 children who suffered from cleft palates and other facial deformities.

In the evening, I went to University Hospital where I watched Dr. Robert Couch run the night shift of the emergency room. The evening brought everything from walk-ins seeking routine medical care to the airlift of two victims from a head-on automobile crash, probably caused by a driver who had too much to drink. The residents under Dr. Couch's supervision were poised for action when the helicopter landed and two women with broken bones, head injuries and inter-

nal bleeding were wheeled in to Room 9. Within moments, life-saving actions were taken to get one patient breathing. X-rays were immediately taken and the young doctors made snap decisions on the treatment for these endangered patients. These emergency room doctors don't have on-going relationships with their patients. They treat and move on to the next crisis with enormous dedication.

After an exhausting and exhilarating day, I returned the next morning at 7:15 a.m. to Jewish Hospital to observe Dr. Laman Gray perform a quadruple coronary bypass on a 67 year-old man. One stands in sheer amazement at the sight of the human heart beating in an open chest cavity. When it came time for Dr. Gray to stitch the new bypass vessels to the aorta, the heart was stopped and then brought back to its rhythmic beating when Dr. Gray completed his delicate work. Dr. Gray had another operation scheduled for the afternoon and in-between, he was dealing with 2 other emergencies, including arranging for the airlifting of a heart attack victim from another state to Jewish Hospital for care and treatment.

Wednesday afternoon, I accompanied Dr. Cindy Zinner on her appointments at the Portland Family Clinic, a federally-sponsored community health center. Dr. Zinner specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics, and that afternoon, was working as a pediatrician. The Portland facility fills a unique role by being accessible not only to those covered by health insurance (including Medicaid) but also to the working poor who lack employer-sponsored health insurance, and who do not qualify for Medicaid. In observing Dr. Zinner treat several seemingly routine ear infections and perform a number of well-child examinations, the highly important role for preventive medicine becomes readily apparent. Dr. Zinner becomes a positive force in the lives of these struggling families.

These doctors, the residents, nurses and other assistants with whom they work are dedicated to the care and treatment of individuals from every part of our society. Each of the doctors has chosen a very different career in medicine, but all are devoted to the good health and life of the people they treat. My experience was a significant educational opportunity and I was privileged to watch these men and women perform their work.●

PRISON LITERACY

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, you may remember that a few weeks ago, I had an amendment on the floor to restore funding to the prison literacy program. I hope that will stay in the final appropriations that we agree to.

The need to do something on the question of illiteracy was emphasized in an editorial in the Chicago Tribune and by an excellent letter to the editor from George Ryan, the Secretary of State in Illinois who, I'm pleased to say, has been a leader in literacy efforts.

I ask that the George Ryan letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The letter follows:

LEARNING IN PRISON

SPRINGFIELD.—The March 25 editorial titled "The crime of prison illiteracy" correctly laid out the devastating problem of low literacy levels among prisoners in Illinois and across the nation. Education is an